

states, and will certainly contribute to national initiatives.

Child welfare is a deeply important issue for this country. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates the 2010 Census will show the number of children in foster care is over half a million and will only continue to rise. It is our responsibility to take any possible measure to improve the outcomes of foster care, and renewing the authority granted to Health and Human Services under H.R. 1194 is essential to that goal.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I continue to reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I simply want to say again "thank you" to my colleague from Kentucky. This working relationship on behalf of children is one that has never gotten really political, and it is one of the nicest things about serving in Congress. So I appreciate having GEOFF come on as the new chairman of the committee.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful again to acknowledge my colleague Mr. McDERMOTT and his many years of work on this issue. The staff in both the majority and minority on the subcommittee have worked very hard through time on this issue to bring this bipartisan measure to the floor today.

Passage of H.R. 1194 will renew child welfare waiver authorities so States can again test new ways of helping at-risk youth. These waivers will let States develop new ideas, and allow them to spend money on what we know is most effective, which is working to keep children safely together with their families.

I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUAYLE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1194.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### HONORING MOUNTAIN HOME RESIDENT SERGEANT AUGIE HELD

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thanksgiving Day 1944, current Mountain Home, Arkansas, resident Sergeant Augie Held took a bullet in his left shoulder. Held was 22 years old at the time and a member of 84th Infantry Division, Bravo Company. That was how Sergeant Held received his first Purple Heart. He was back to battle a mere 3 weeks later.

On December 19, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, Sergeant Held earned his second Purple Heart. Members of his company tried to take shelter from the cold in a barn, where they were attacked. Bullets and shrapnel went flying, and Sergeant Held took a piece of shrapnel to his left wrist.

Just 2 months later Sergeant Held was caught in mortar fire. Mortar hit so close to him it knocked him unconscious and a piece of shrapnel was embedded in his cheek, and that shrapnel stayed with him until he went stateside, and that was how Sergeant Held earned his third Purple Heart.

Sergeant Held is one of many First District residents in my home district in Arkansas who selflessly fought for America. Our district has an amazing group of veterans from World War I to the current War on Terror who put America first and their own lives second. These are the people that make this country great.

Yesterday was Memorial Day, a day to honor those who fought for our country and also remember the fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. My family and I spent this weekend honoring all who served, not only in the First District of Arkansas but all across America.

I want to thank the troops and their families for the shared sacrifice they make to our country. And a special thank you to Sergeant Augie Held, who is a living reminder of why I am so proud to be an American.

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD "PINKY" McNAMARA

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Richard "Pinky" McNamara, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and former college athlete.

Pinky passed away last week at the age 78 after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. He attended the University of Minnesota on an athletic scholarship, eventually earning three varsity letters as halfback for the Golden Gophers.

Shortly after his graduation in 1956, Pinky embarked on a successful career in business, buying struggling companies and turning them around.

Over the years, Pinky McNamara would donate millions of dollars to his alma mater's liberal arts and athletic departments. Along with his brother, Bob, another former Golden Gopher, Pinky helped raise the funds to bring football back to the university's campus that he loved.

His philanthropic efforts will leave a lasting and permanent mark on campus, with the university's McNamara Alumni Center named in his honor. Pinky may be gone, but his legacy will always live on at the campus he loved.

#### NATO ASSEMBLY IN BULGARIA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I return from a meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Varna, Bulgaria, where the U.S. delegation was chaired by Congressman MIKE TURNER, accompanied by MIKE ROSS, JO ANN EMERSON, and JEFF MILLER. We were welcomed by the former Mayor of Varna, Hristo Kirchev, who is a champion of freedom and democracy in a nation which, since 1990, has evolved from the chains of communist totalitarianism to being a vibrant free market democracy today.

Parliamentarians from NATO's 28 member nations and delegations, from Russia to Montenegro, were briefed on issues critical to promoting democracy in the world. Secretary General Anders Rasmussen presented a clear report on NATO's progress in Iraq and Afghanistan, while encouraging civil society movements in North Africa. Prime Minister Boyko Borisov of Bulgaria gave a stirring promotion of a missile defense system for Europe. Bulgaria is a valued partner of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### MEDICARE

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACK. I have been doing town hall meetings for the last 4 months, and up to this point I have had about 12. When Medicare comes up, people tell me, Don't touch my Medicare. Hands off my Medicare.

And you know what I tell them? There is a dirty little secret that the Democrats in Congress and the President don't want them to know, and that is their Medicare is already changed. Because last Congress, when this House passed ObamaCare, they robbed \$500 billion from Medicare to pay for their government takeover of health care.

Not only that, but ObamaCare set up an Independent Payment Advisory Board, or an IPAB, and you know what those 15 unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats will do? They are going to ration your Medicare to cut the costs and limit seniors' access to Medicare.

You know what else happens under this plan in a decade? There is no Medicare because the program will become bankrupt.

Now, the truth about the Republican plan and the Path to Prosperity: Under our plan we save Medicare. We address the unsustainable growth rate of Medicare so the program doesn't go bankrupt in 10 years. The Democrats have no plan to stop Medicare's descent into bankruptcy, but the Republicans do. And unlike ObamaCare, where you